



**Ion de la Riva Guzmán de Frutos** was born in Caracas, Venezuela in 1959, of Vasque parents who left Spain as exiles after the civil war.

He studied his Baccalaureate at Colegio Estudio (Spain), St. Augustine's College, (U.K.), Haus Marquette (Germany) and Le Causou (France).

He has a **Law and Business Administration** degree from ICADE (Madrid), and is a graduate in **Human Rights** (Strasbourg) and **Disarmament** (Venice).

A career diplomat since 1981, with the number one of his batch, Ion de la Riva worked in the Cabinet of Foreign Ministers **Moran, Ordóñez** and **Solana**.

Subsequently, he was **Director General** in the Cabinet of **International Cooperation** and **Latin America** with Luis Yáñez, and Director of Studies in the Cabinet of Foreign Minister **Javier Solana**.

Among his other assignments, Ion de la Riva was Advisor for the Spanish Pavilion at the Expo '92, representing the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the same year, he was also Advisor to the National Commission for the V Centenary of the Discovery of America, and Coordinator of the Commissions **Sefarad '92** and **Al-Andalus '92**. He became Counsellor of the **Embassy of Spain in Paris** in 1988 and worked on the Bicentennial of the French Revolution.

Ion de la Riva was the Founder of «**Casa de América**» (Madrid, 1991) and Director of the America Tribune until 1994. He was **Counsellor for Cooperation and Culture in Havana** and **Founder of the Spanish Cultural Centre, in Cuba** (1996 - 2000). He was Founder of "Casa Asia" in 2001 and its first Director General and of the **Indo-Spanish Dialogue Forum**.

He was Counsellor for Asia/Pacific in the Cabinet of Vice Minister Miquel Nadal (2000 - 2001) and appointed **Governor for ASEF** (2000 - 2007) and **Ambassador on Special Mission for the Asia Pacific Action Plan** (2004 - 2008).

Accredited as **Ambassador** Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Spain to the Republic of **India** on July 19th, 2007, to **Maldives** on April 14th, 2008, to **Sri Lanka** on August 25th, 2008 and to **Nepal** on November 21st, 2008.

**Ambassador** Permanent Delegate of Spain to **UNESCO** in February 2011.

**Director** of **FIND - India Europe Foundation** from November 2012 until January 2014.

He is currently **Cultural Counsellor** of the **Spanish Embassy** in Italy.

Ion de la Riva is the author of the book "**Un Solo Mundo 1942 - 1992**" (1991) and of "**Album Asia**" (2002), and has published numerous articles on international affairs in "Política Exterior" and specialized magazines in Mexico and Spain (ie. «Miradas», «Institución Libre de Enseñanza», «Homenaje a Eugenio d'Ors», «Cumbres Iberoamericanas», etc).

He is a member of UNESCO Etxea and ZABALTZEN (basque civil society associations) and also a member of Amnesty International and Vicente Ferrer, NGO for India's impoverished.

He speaks Spanish, English, French, German, Portuguese, Italian, Catalan and Basque.

Among his **decorations**:

- **International**: Order of Orange-Nassau (**Netherlands**), Order of Merit (**Germany**), Grand Order of Merit (**Chile**), Grand National Order of Merit (**Paraguay**) and Medal of the Order of Sikatuna with rank of Lakan (**Philippines**).
- **Spanish**: Order of Isabel la Católica, Commander and Official of the Order of Civil Merit and Orden 2 Mayo de Madrid (CAM), 2009.

He enjoys swimming, hiking, reading and anthropology, listening to classical Indian music, yoga, theatre, African music and good Basque meals. He supports human rights activism and minority rights through NGOs and participation in seminars and lectures. He also supports wildlife and outdoor activities like hiking on the way of St. James.

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